



FACULTY RECITAL

# **Chloé Kiffer, violin**

With guest artists

**Linda Chesis**, flute

**Jessica Meyer**, viola

**Julia Lichten**, cello

**Alexandre Moutouzkine** (MM '03, PS '05, AD '06), piano

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025 | 7:30 PM  
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## PROGRAM

ROSY WERTHEIM  
(1888–1949)

Three Preludes for 'Lancelot'

I. Andante

II. Andante quasi Andantino

III. Allegro molto ma non agitato

DORA PEJAČEVIĆ  
(1885–1923)

Piano Quartet in D Minor, Op. 25

I. Allegro

II. Adagio

III. Minuetto. Trio

IV. Rondo. Allegro.

## *Intermission*

JESSICA MEYER  
(b. 1974)

I Only Speak of the Sun

I. The Sun is my master

II. I shine on those who are forsaken... tear off  
the mask, your face is glorious

III. I will bring you love's wine, for I am  
born of the sun

AMY BEACH  
(1867–1944)

Romance, Op. 23

JENNY PEÑA  
(b. 1983)

*Alas de Libertad* (Commissioned, World Premiere)

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### **Chloé Kiffer**, violin (MM '14, PS '15)

Franco-American violinist Chloé Kiffer has received enthusiastic praise from *The New York Times* for her “pure and beautiful tone” and *The Greenwich Sentinel* for being “...a star in every sense: performance, exquisite technique, and beauty.” Performing solo and orchestral engagements throughout Europe, North and South America, the Middle East, and Asia, Kiffer has appeared at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Beethoven Hall in Bonn, Frankfurt Radio Symphony Hall, Tel Aviv Opera, and Beijing National Center. In October 2015, Kiffer made her Carnegie Hall debut performing Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto in Stern Auditorium. Kiffer has collaborated with artists including Philippe Muller, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Timothy Eddy, the Emerson String Quartet, and pianist Alexandre Moutouzkine. Kiffer is on the violin faculty of Manhattan School of Music and was previously a violin professor at the University of North Texas. Her students have won prizes at national and international competitions. She is a sought-after guest teacher and faculty member for conservatories and festivals around the world—the Heifetz International Music Institute, Miami Music Festival, Beijing International Music Festival and Academy, Chamber Music International in Texas, MusicFest Perugia in Italy, Paris International Music Academy and MusicAlps in France. Kiffer is a laureate of the Bleustein-Blanchet Foundation. She graduated from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris and earned postgraduate degrees from Manhattan School of Music under Patinka Kopec and Pinchas Zukerman. Kiffer received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University. In 2019 Kiffer released an album of the Ravel violin sonatas on the Steinway & Sons label with pianist Alexandre Moutouzkine. Chloé Kiffer performs on a violin that was made for her by luthier Samuel Zygmuntowicz (Brooklyn, NY, 2023).

### **Jessica Meyer**, Composer and violist

With playing that is “fierce and lyrical” and works that are “other-worldly” (*The Strad*) and “evocative” (*New York Times*), Jessica Meyer is an award-winning composer and violist whose passionate musicianship radiates accessibility and emotional clarity. Meyer’s first composer/performer portrait album, *Ring Out* (Bright Shiny Things, 2019) debuted at #1 on the Billboard Traditional Classical Chart. Her second album *I long and seek after* is a collection of her vocal works that was recently released in March of 2024 on New Focus Recordings and was hailed by *Musical America* as “gorgeously scored.”

At home with many different styles of music and an ardent collaborator,

Jessica can regularly be seen premiering her chamber works, performing with GRAMMY®-nominated ensembles, appearing on Baroque viola, improvising with jazz musicians, or collaborating with other composer-performers. In 2022, she premiered her viola concerto GAEA alongside the Orchestra of the League of Composers at Miller Theatre in NYC and recently headlined the 2024 Primrose International Viola Competition at the American Viola Society Festival with a recital of her own works.

Since the start of her composition career in 2014, at age 40, Meyer's compositions have viscerally explored the wide palette of colors available to each instrument while combining techniques inspired by her experiences as a contemporary and period instrumentalist. Her works have been performed in venues from the Kennedy Center to Carnegie Hall, by musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic, and by orchestras around the country. Upcoming premieres include a work for Met Opera tenor Paul Appleby and the Claremont Trio, a viola and piano work commissioned by Juilliard Pre-college, and a new orchestral piece *Turbulent Flames* to be performed by a consortium of orchestras across the United States.

Ms. Meyer is equally known for her inspirational work as an educator, where she empowers musicians with networking, communication, teaching, and entrepreneurial skills so they can be the best advocates for their own careers. Currently, she serves on the viola and chamber music faculty at Manhattan School of Music, training students on becoming the best version of their artistic selves while learning how to build a life in music.

## **Julia Lichten**, cello

Julia Lichten enjoys a varied career as soloist, chamber musician, and teacher in the New York City area and beyond. She was a member of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra from 1995 to 2014 and has toured with Musicians from Marlboro, the American Chamber Players, and as an artistic ambassador for the U.S. State Department. Her festival engagements have included the Marlboro Music Festival, Tanglewood Music Center, Taos Chamber Music Festival, Library of Congress, Caramoor, Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Chesapeake Chamber Music, and Rencontres Musicales d'Evian. She has recorded for Marlboro Recording Society, Arabesque, Koch International Classics, Music Masters, Sony Classical, and Deutsche Grammophon. Lichten has served as artist faculty at the National Orchestral Institute, Kneisel Hall, Heifetz International Music Institute, Meadowmount School of Music, and Vivace. She is a member of the faculties of Manhattan School of Music and the CUNY Graduate Center. A

native of New Haven, CT, Lichten graduated from Harvard-Radcliffe and New England Conservatory. Her principal teachers and mentors included Mischa Nieland, Paul Tobias, Felix Galimir, David Soyer, and Leon Kirchner.

## **Linda Chesis, flute**

Described by the *New York Times* as “a marvelous artist, whose sophisticated technical resources and lively, informed musicality vitalize everything she plays,” Linda Chesis is considered to be one of the most exciting and dynamic flutists of her generation. Equally devoted to her roles as a chamber musician, teacher, soloist, curator, and festival director, Ms. Chesis has forged a career of uncommon breadth and diversity. Ms. Chesis has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in major halls throughout the U.S., France, Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Korea, and China. A top prizewinner at the Paris and Barcelona International Competitions and the National Flute Association Competition, she has received several career awards, including a Solo Recitalist’s Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Deeply committed to educating the next generation of musicians, Ms. Chesis has been on the flute and chamber music faculties at Manhattan School of Music since 1986. In 1988 she was appointed Chair of the Woodwind Department, and in 2012 she was the recipient of the President’s Medal for Distinguished Teaching. Linda Chesis is the founder and artistic director of the Cooperstown Summer Music Festival, currently celebrating its twenty-second year of bringing chamber music performances of the highest quality to upstate New York. Ms. Chesis has also been a guest artist at the Bowdoin International Music Festival, Salzburg Mozarteum, the Spoleto Festival, Bravo! Colorado, Tanglewood Music Festival, An Appalachian Summer Festival, and Music from Angel Fire, among others.

In addition to her work at MSM, she is regularly invited to give master classes at conservatories, universities, and institutes around the globe. Linda Chesis received a BA from Yale College with a major in the History of Art. Upon graduation, she was awarded the John Courtney Murray Fellowship and a Rotary International Fellowship, which allowed her to pursue flute studies with Jean-Pierre Rampal at the Paris Conservatory. After earning the conservatory’s coveted Premier Prix de Flute and performing for a season as principal flute of the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Ms. Chesis returned to the U.S. to pursue a solo career. Ms. Chesis’ recordings can be heard on the EMI, Nonesuch, and Music Masters labels, and television and radio broadcasts featuring Ms. Chesis’ chamber music performances can frequently be heard on American Public Media’s Performance Today.

## **Alexandre Moutouzkine** (MM '03, PS '05, AD '06), piano

Russian-American pianist Alexandre Moutouzkine has toured as a soloist with over 60 orchestras across Europe, North and South America, and Asia. Highlights of those performances include appearances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Berliner Philharmoniker, Israel Philharmonic and Israel Camerata, Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, Philharmonic Orchestras of Moscow and Kiev, and Radiotelevision Orchestra of Spain.

As a recitalist and chamber musician, Alexandre has performed at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium and Zankel Hall, The Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, The Kimmel Center, Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, Royal Hall in London, The Great Hall of the Berlin Philharmonic, Palau de la Musica in Barcelona, National Centers of Toronto and Montreal, Yokohama Minato Mirai Hall in Japan.

Alexandre's recital at Wigmore Hall was described by *International Piano* magazine as "grandly organic, with many personal and pertinent insights, offering a thoughtful balance between rhetoric and fantasy...technically dazzling." Alexandre's recital of Frédéric Chopin's Études at the Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory was recorded live and released on the Classical Music Archives label in Russia.

Alexandre has claimed top prizes at more than 20 international competitions, including Naumburg, Cleveland, Montreal, New Orleans, Shanghai, Iturbi in Valencia, Maria Canals in Barcelona, and Arthur Rubinstein in Tel Aviv. At age 19, he won the Special Award for Artistic Potential for his performance of Brahms' Op. 117 Intermezzi. A *Dallas Morning News* critic described it as being played "more beautifully, more movingly, than I've ever heard them. At once sad, tender and noble, this was playing of heart-stopping intimacy and elegance."

Other career highlights include a performance of Rachmaninoff's complete works in a six-part recital series with the Carnegie Concert Series in Nyack and the reception of the "Artist of the Season" award from Chamber Music International in Dallas.

His record of Cuban piano music released through Steinway & Sons was recognized by WRTI as one of the top 10 classical music recordings picks for 2017. It also won the Cubadisco Award for the best classical music recording in Cuba. Alexandre most recently released a Steinway and Sons recording, "Ravel & Stravinsky" with violinist Chloé Kiffer. This album features his solo piano transcription of Stravinsky's Firebird Suite, which debuted at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center and New York's 92Y.

Alexandre has served as an adjudicator for the Concours International Genève Musicale, Bartok Competition in Budapest, Maria Canals in Barcelona, Santa Cecilia in Porto, Panama International Piano Competition, New Orleans

International Piano Competition, and Vladimir Krainev Competition in Moscow.

Alexandre is co-head of the piano department at Manhattan School of Music. His students have won top prizes in numerous competitions throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia. He is a sought-after teacher and guest artist at music festivals around the world including Beijing International Piano Festival, Paris International Music Academy and MusicAlp Festival in France, Music Fest Perugia, Forum Musicae in Madrid, and the International Piano Festival Genève Musicale.

# ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its 1,025 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from 54 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege Division is a professionally oriented Saturday music program dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 5 to 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

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## Land Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.



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